

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt having a first end and a second end, ~~especially a grinding or polishing belt~~, with releasable shape-mated connection device on said ends to form an endless belt, in which the shape-mated connection device is formed with a recess with a closed edge on said first end and a counterpiece on said second end, characterized in that the recess is designed as an elongated hole whose length corresponds roughly to a width of the grinding belt, the counterpiece is at least as wide as the width of the grinding belt containing the recess, and the recess is symmetrical about a center line axis running parallel to the grinding belt, the recess having a longitudinal axis that runs parallel to long sides of the grinding belt, in that the elongated hole has a first and a second region, in which an expansion in a transverse direction of the grinding belt, of the first region is greater than the expansion of the second region, and in that the first region faces said first end of the belt and the second region faces away from said first end.
  
2. (Previously Presented) Grinding belt according to Claim 1, characterized in that the first region is essentially round.
  
3. (Previously Presented) Grinding belt according to Claim 1, characterized in that a surrounding region of the elongated hole is stiffened.

4. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt according to Claim 1, characterized in that a surrounding region of ~~the at least one recess or the elongated hole~~ is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

5. (Previously Presented) Grinding belt according to Claim 2, characterized in that a surrounding region of the elongated hole is stiffened.

6. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt according to Claim 2, characterized in that a surrounding region of ~~the at least one~~ recess is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

7. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt according to Claim 3, characterized in that a surrounding region of ~~the at least one~~ recess is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

8. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt according to Claim 5, characterized in that a surrounding region of ~~the at least one~~ recess is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

9. (Previously Presented) Grinding belt according to Claim 1, characterized in that the counterpiece is stiffened.

10. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt according to Claim 1, characterized in that a surrounding region of ~~the at least one~~ counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

11. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt according to Claim 2, characterized in that a surrounding region of ~~the at least one~~ counterpiece is stiffened.
12. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt according to Claim 2, characterized in that a surrounding region of ~~the at least one~~ counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.
13. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt according to Claim 3, characterized in that a surrounding region of ~~the at least one~~ counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.
14. (Currently Amended) Grinding belt according to Claim 5, characterized in that a surrounding region of ~~the at least one~~ counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.
15. (New) Grinding belt according to Claim 1, further comprising an abrasive particle coating on the surface of the belt, comprising a glass filament layer and a nylon nonwoven layer impregnated with abrasive particles.
16. (New) Grinding belt according to Claim 1, wherein the belt comprises two sub grinding belts glued together back to back to provide abrasive surfaces on a front and back surface of the belt.